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The method of Claim 13 wherein said certain constituents comprises of carbon, manganese, phosphorous, sulfur, silicon, chromium, molybdenum, and vanadium present within said second material.

Remarks

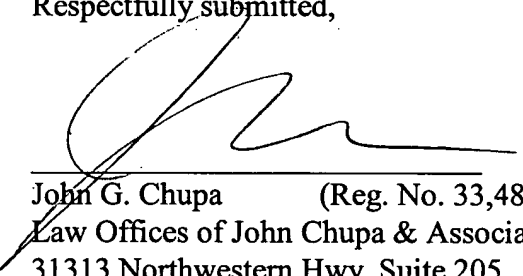
The Examiner has rejected claims 1-17, objected to claims 13-17, and objected to the abstract of the disclosure. Particularly, claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention; and claims 1-6 and 13-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner has indicated that claims 13-17 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the §112, second paragraph rejections. Claims 1, 7, 13, and 14 have been amended to overcome the §112 rejections and to better clarify Applicant's claimed invention.

Particularly, claim 1 has been amended to introduce the first material before the introduction of the second material; claim 7 has also been amended to introduce the first material before the introduction of the second material; claim 13 has been amended to include proper antecedent basis as well as to

read "determining" rather than "identifying", which the Examiner asserted "fails to distinguish a particular identification"; and claim 14 has been amended to correct the improper antecedent basis problem. The Applicant's undersigned attorney respectfully asserts that all of pending claims 1-17 are now in condition for allowance.

Such allowance is therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any further questions regarding this matter, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's undersigned Attorney at (248) 865-9588.

Respectfully submitted,



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Abstract (amended "marked-up" version)

A method (10) for acquiring material for use within a die and for determining whether a die has certain characteristics which would allow the die to have a relatively long operating life. The method (10) requires that a supplier of a die provide certain material which is analyzed to determine whether the supplied material has a certain toughness. If the material has the requisite toughness, a material signature is created and used to evaluate further materials and dies produced and/or provided by the supplier.

Claim 1 (amended "marked-up" version)

A method for purchasing a first material from a supplier comprising the steps of:

obtaining a second material from said supplier;

creating a first material signature by use of said second material;

obtaining said first material from said supplier;

creating a second material signature by use of said first material;

comparing said first and second material signatures; and

purchasing said first material only if said second and first material signatures are substantially similar.

Claim 1 (amended "marked-up" version)

A method for purchasing a die formed from a [certain] ^{first} material provided by a certain supplier, said method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a ^{first} [second] material from ^a [said] supplier;

creating a first material signature by use of said ^{first} [second] material;

acquiring a sample of ^a [said] die;

creating a second material signature by use of said sample; [and]

determining whether said first and second material signatures are substantially similar; and

purchasing said die formed from said first material upon a determination that said first and second signatures are substantially similar.

Claim 13⁷ (amended "marked-up" version)

A method for approving dies respectively produced by a plurality of suppliers, said method comprising the step of:

obtaining material from each of said plurality of suppliers;

[identifying] determining the presence and amount of certain constituents within each of said obtained materials, thereby creating a material signature for each of said plurality of suppliers;

obtaining a sample from each die;

[identifying] determining the presence and amount of said certain constituents within each sample; and

evaluating said dies by use of said material signatures and said [identification] presence and amount of said certain constituents.

Claim 14⁸ (amended "marked-up" version)

The method of Claim ~~13~~⁷ wherein said [constituent] certain constituents comprises of carbon, manganese, phosphorous, sulfur, silicon, chromium, molybdenum, and vanadium present within said second material.